

## Sport England

**Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport has announced the reappointment of Jill Ainscough, Mich Stevenson, James Stewart, and Martin Thomas to the Board of Sport England and the extension of Karren Brady's second term.**

## Biographies

### **Jill Ainscough**

Jill Ainscough is Chief Operating Officer of Ofcom, the converged regulator for the UK communications industry. Prior to joining Ofcom, Jill was Managing Director of BSkyB's Easynet Group - a company she first joined as Director of Strategy in 2001. Her achievements in that role included successful new market entry into corporate data networks and securing and managing a 3 year sponsorship of the British Olympic Association. Previous main roles include Head of Marketing Development at NTL; Financial Planning and Analysis Manager for Barclaycard (1995-97); Business Planner for the Cambridge Cable Group (1994-95) and Senior Financial Analyst for the Granada Group (1990-92).

### **Mich Stevenson OBE DL Hon MA**

In 1992 Mich formed the Lace Market Heritage Trust to enable and encourage the regeneration of the historic Lace Market area of Nottingham, which and was appointed its inaugural Chairman. In 1993 The Museum of Law Trust Company was formed to oversee the creation of the Galleries of Justice, working towards its recognition as the National Museum of Law. He was appointed Chairman. In July 1997 Mich was awarded Honorary Degree of Master of Arts (Nottingham Trent University) in recognition of his contribution to the regeneration of the Nottingham Lace Market. In 1998 Mich was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honors List for "Services to the Galleries of Justice, Nottingham". In 2001 Mich was awarded "Enterprise Midlander of the Year" for East and West Midlands, by Carlton Television and has since been appointed Chairman of the Carlton Television Midlander of the Year and has also been appointed a Director of the Regional Advisory Council for Carlton Television. Mich served as Chairman of Nottingham Development Enterprise for five and a half years before retiring in 2001. He was also the Chairman of Profile Nottingham from which he retired in July 2001. Mich is Chair of the National Ice Centre where he turned a loss making existing business into profitability within twelve months. He is also Chair of Nottingham Regeneration Limited which is a public/private sector partnership. In December 2004, Mich became Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. In 2005 Mich was awarded the highest honour a City can award when he was admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Nottingham.

### **James Stewart**

James is the Chief Executive of Partnerships UK. He was appointed in May 2000. He is also a Director of the Northern Ireland Strategic Investment Board, a member of the Joint Venture Board of Partnerships for Schools and a Non-Executive Director on Sport England. Previously James was Head of Newcourt Capital's project finance team in London. Prior to joining Newcourt Capital, James was Managing Director of Project Finance and the Global Head of Infrastructure and Environment with Soci t 

Générale (SG) in London.

### **Martin Thomas**

In January 2007 Martin Thomas founded his own marketing communications consultancy. Prior to this he was Head of Strategy at the Media Planning Group, a leading media planning and buying agency. In 2004 he co-founded Nylon, a specialising planning consultancy within the WPP group. Before that he was Global Head of Total Communications, Mediaedge: cia (MEC), responsible for global communications and strategic planning advice for clients including Norwich Union, Lego, Visa International and Citibank. From 1999 to 2002 he was board director at The Media Edge and undertook various other communications-related roles at managerial level in advertising, public relations and sponsorship from 1986.

### **Karren Brady**

Karren Brady is Vice Chairman of West Ham United Football Club. Prior to joining West Ham she was Managing Director of Birmingham City Football Club since 1993. In 1996 the club made an overall profit for the first time in modern history and in 1997 it was launched on the stock market valued at £25m. Karren has introduced a community programme at Birmingham FC, including initiatives aimed at helping children and single parents. She is a board member for Mothercare and Channel 4 and is a non-executive Director of Kerrang! Radio. She has appeared on TV and written a number of books, the most recent encouraging women into business

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Mich Stevenson, James Stewart, and Martin Thomas are reappointed for second terms of three years from 16 April 2010 to 15 April 2013. Jill Ainscough is reappointed for a second term of one year from 16 April 2010 to 15 April 2011.
2. Karren Brady's second term is extended by 12 months to 20 March 2011. Karren Brady was originally reappointed for a second term of 12 months from 21 March 2009 to 20 March 2010.
3. Sport England operates under a Royal Charter and is the Government funded agency responsible for providing the strategic lead for sport in England in order to deliver the Government's sporting objectives.
4. The time commitment is 2 days per month and member can claim an attendance allowance of £218 per day.
5. This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. None of the appointees has declared undertaking any political activity during the past five years.